

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vehicle cover comprising:
a flexible sheet structured and arranged for placement over a vehicle to overlay finished exterior surfaces of multiple outer body parts of the vehicle, said flexible sheet comprising a first region and a second region, wherein said flexible sheet first region covers at least a majority portion of the finished exterior surface of a driver-side front door of the vehicle when said flexible sheet is placed over the vehicle, wherein said flexible sheet second region covers at least a portion of both a roof of the vehicle and the finished exterior surface of the vehicle body part located rearward of the driver-side front door when said flexible sheet is placed over the vehicle; and
a zipper having a slider element and mating elements connected to facing edge portions of said first and second regions of said flexible sheet, wherein said zipper when said slider element is in a zipped-closed position bridges said facing edge portions of said first and second regions, and wherein said zipper when said slider element is in a zipped-open position permits the driver-side front door to be opened while said flexible sheet remains in place over the vehicle.
2. The vehicle cover of claim 1 wherein said flexible sheet is formed by interconnecting a plurality of sheet pieces custom structured and assembled to substantially conform to an exterior shape of a specific vehicle type for which cover use is intended.
3. The vehicle cover of claim 1 wherein said zipper when said slider element is in a zipped-closed position is generally continuously aligned along a rear edge and a top edge of the driver-side front door when said flexible sheet is in place over the vehicle.
4. The vehicle cover of claim 1 further comprising means for releasably attaching said flexible sheet first region onto an upper, rearward corner of the driver-side front door of the vehicle to prevent said flexible sheet first region from falling down when said zipper slider element is disposed in a zipped-open position to allow driver-side front door opening.

53

5. The vehicle cover of claim 4 wherein said means for releasably attaching said flexible sheet first region comprises a fabric flap that forms a door-corner receiving pocket with a vehicle-facing surface of said flexible sheet first region.

6. The vehicle cover of claim 1 wherein said flexible sheet further comprises a protective sleeve having first and second ends, wherein said first end is fixedly secured to said first region of said flexible sheet around an opening through said flexible sheet first region, said protective sleeve including an elastic band attached to and encircling said second end, said protective sleeve elastic band expandable to allow insertion of a door mirror therethrough during placement of said flexible sheet over the vehicle, wherein said elastic band elastically conforms to a periphery of a support arm of the door mirror, thereby permitting door mirror visibility during cover use while preventing contaminants from entering said protective sleeve.

7. The vehicle cover of claim 1 further comprising means for releasably fastening together said first and second regions of said flexible sheet proximate a bottom edge of said first region to aid in keeping said zipper in a zipped-closed arrangement.

8. The vehicle of claim 1 further comprising a finish protecting flap attached to one of said first and second regions of said flexible sheet and adapted to project beneath and along at least substantially all of the length of said mating elements of said zipper when in a zipped-closed arrangement so as to be interposed between said mating elements and the vehicle.

9. The vehicle cover of claim 1 wherein said flexible sheet overlays at least substantially all of the finished exterior surfaces of the sides, front and back of the vehicle.

10. A cover for a vehicle including outer body panels with finished exterior surfaces, comprising:

means arrangeable over the vehicle for covering at least substantially all of the finished exterior surfaces of the outer body panels of the vehicle; and

5 elastic means for retaining said covering means on the vehicle during vehicle transport, said elastic means attached to said covering means proximate a bottom edge of said covering means and disposed along at least a majority portion of a vehicle encircling length of said bottom edge.

11. The cover of claim 10 wherein said elastic retaining means comprises an elastic strip attached lengthwise along at least substantially all of said vehicle encircling length of said bottom edge, said elastic strip having an unextended length less than a length of said bottom edge to which said strip is attached, whereby said
5 bottom edge is arranged in a gathered together fashion when said elastic strip is unextended.

12. The cover of claim 11 wherein said elastic strip continuously extends along the entire vehicle encircling length of said bottom edge.

Sub 13. The cover of claim 10 wherein said covering means comprises a base sheet including a plurality of openings adapted to overlay windows of the vehicle when said covering means is arranged over the vehicle, wherein said covering means further comprises a plurality of transparent sheets sized to cover said plurality of base
5 sheet openings, each of said plurality of transparent sheets being fixedly attached to said base sheet to cover a different base sheet opening, thereby allowing driver visibility through said base sheet openings while preventing contaminants from passing through said base sheet openings to a location between said base sheet and the vehicle.

12
14. The cover of claim 13 wherein each of said plurality of transparent sheets is sewn to said base sheet along a perimeter of said transparent sheet.

13
15. The cover of claim 13 wherein said pluralities of base sheet openings and transparent sheets comprises a base sheet opening and a transparent sheet for each window of the vehicle.

25

14

9

16.

The cover of claim 10 further comprising a plurality of anchoring straps diagonally extending between bottom edges of portions of said covering means arranged over different surfaces of the vehicle.

30
94-47

A vehicle cover comprising:

a flexible sheet structured and arranged to closely fit over a vehicle, said flexible sheet comprising a first sheet portion for covering a vehicle roof, a second sheet portion depending from said first sheet portion for covering at least substantially all of a front of the vehicle including a hood and a front bumper, a third sheet portion depending from said first sheet portion for covering at least substantially all of a back of a vehicle including a rear bumper, a fourth sheet portion depending from said first sheet portion for covering at least substantially all of a first side of the vehicle including a driver-side front door, and a fifth sheet portion depending from said first sheet portion for covering at least substantially all of a second side of the vehicle including a passenger-side front door;

wherein each of said second sheet portion, said third sheet portion, said fourth sheet portion, and said fifth sheet portion comprises at least one opening adapted to overlay a different vehicle window when the flexible sheet is fitted over the vehicle;

a plurality of transparent sheets for covering the at least one opening in said second sheet portion, said third sheet portion, said fourth sheet portion, and said fifth sheet portion, each of said plurality of transparent sheets fixedly attached to said flexible sheet, thereby allowing driver visibility through said flexible sheet openings while hindering contaminants from passing through said flexible sheet openings to a location between said flexible sheet and the vehicle; and

at least one elastic strip attached to said flexible sheet proximate a bottom edge of said second sheet portion and said third sheet portion and at regions of said second and third sheet portions engageable with the underside of the vehicle to thereby retain said flexible sheet on the vehicle.

26

¹⁶
18. The vehicle cover of claim ¹⁵17 wherein said at least one elastic strip extends along an entire vehicle encircling length of bottom edges of said second sheet portion, said third sheet portion, said fourth sheet portion and said fifth sheet portion.

¹⁷
19. The vehicle cover of claim ¹⁶17 wherein said fourth sheet portion comprises a slit generally aligned along a rear edge and a top edge of the driver-side front door, and a zipper having a slider element and mating elements connected to facing sheet edges that define said slit, wherein said zipper when in a zipped-closed arrangement bridges said facing sheet edges, and wherein said zipper when in a zipped-open arrangement permits the driver-side front door to be opened while said flexible sheet remains in place over the vehicle.

¹⁸
20. The vehicle cover of claim ¹⁵17 further comprising a plurality of elastic anchoring straps diagonally extending between bottom edges of adjacent sheet portions.

¹⁹
21. The vehicle cover of claim ¹⁸20 wherein said plurality of anchoring straps comprises a first anchoring strap and a second anchoring strap, wherein said first anchoring strap extends between the bottom edges of said second sheet portion and one of said fourth and fifth sheet portions, and wherein said second anchoring strap extends between the bottom edges of said third sheet portion and one of said fourth and fifth sheet portions.

add
95

217